

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 25, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BROWN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 168.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the memorial of the Corporation of Georgetown, submit the following report:

The memorialists set forth their case briefly and pointedly. The committee append the memorial and make it a part of their report.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the corporation of Georgetown to represent its interests before Congress, would respectfully represent:

That by the act of Congress of July 1, 1812, the levy court of Washington county was authorized to lay a tax not exceeding twenty-five cents on all property in said county, except Washington city, for general county purposes.

That by the same act the general county charges, other than for roads out of Washington city and Georgetown, were to be borne one half by Washington city and one half by the other parts of said county.

That by the act of May 20, 1826, the power to tax in Georgetown by the levy court was taken away, and said corporation of Georgetown was made not obliged to contribute in any manner towards the expenses of the levy court except for "one fourth of the expenses incurred on account of the orphans' court, the office of coroner, the jail of the county, and one half of the expenses for the opening and repairing of roads in the county of Washington, west of Rock creek, and leading to Georgetown." By the same act the levy court was relieved of taking care of the Georgetown poor.

The undersigned would respectfully represent that the tax upon Georgetown of paying for one half of the roads of Washington county, west of Rock creek, is onerous and unjust. The tax upon the real and personal property in Georgetown is eighty-five cents in the hun-

dred dollars. The tax upon the real and personal property in the county is twelve-and-a-half cents in the hundred dollars. Property in Georgetown is assessed at least at one hundred and twenty per cent.—that in the county is notoriously assessed at not more than sixty per cent. It is undoubted that the rate of taxation in Georgetown is at least ten times greater than in the county. The county pays no portion of the expenses of our streets, and there is no reason why our town should pay for the county roads. It is not in the power of our town to say what roads should be made or repaired. The levy court may run our town into any amount of debt that it pleases.

It is not fair or just that a people heavily taxed, and considerably in debt, should be compelled to pay the expenses of another people but little taxed, and not at all in debt. There is no sort of equity in any such arrangement. The expense of county roads is a fair and proper charge upon the county, as our streets are a fair charge upon us. We do not call upon the county for any contribution, and the county should not call upon us. If the county roads are a fair charge upon us, our streets are as fair a charge upon the county.

The undersigned respectfully pray that the corporation of Georgetown may be relieved from the payment of one half of the expenses of opening and repairing the roads in Washington county, west of Rock creek, leading to Georgetown.

HENRY ADDISON.
ROB'T. OULD.

Your committee believe the facts to be correctly set forth, and concurring with the memorialists as to the justice of the case, they report a bill.